



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

Michael L. Retzer, Treasurer  
Republican National Committee  
310 First Street, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20003

MAR 19 2003

Identification Number: C00003418

Reference: May Monthly Report (4/1/02-4/30/02)

Dear Mr. Retzer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. The review raised questions concerning certain information contained in the report(s). An itemization follows:

-Schedule A supporting Line 15 of your report discloses a payment(s) from a federal candidate committee(s) for goods and/or services provided by your committee. 11 CFR §100.7(a)(1)(iii)(A) states that "...the provision of any goods or services without charge or at a charge which is less than the usual and normal charge for such goods or services is a contribution." Examples of goods and services include equipment, supplies, personnel, membership lists and mailing lists. The term "usual and normal charge" for goods is defined as "...the price of those goods in the market from which they ordinarily would have been purchased at the time of the contribution". The usual and normal charge for services is defined as "...the hourly or piecework charge for the services at a commercially reasonable rate prevailing at the time the services were rendered." 11 CFR §100.7(a)(1)(iii)(B)

Please clarify whether your committee assessed the usual and normal charge for the goods and/or services you provided to the federal candidate committee(s) and explain the steps your committee took in determining the amount(s) charged. If your committee provided the goods and/or services at less than the usual and normal charge, the difference between the two is

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considered to be an in-kind contribution by your committee to the federal candidate committee(s) and is subject to the limits set forth at 2 U.S.C. §441a. (11 CFR §100.7(a)(1)(iii)(A))

-Schedule B supporting Line 21(b) of your report discloses a payment(s) to another political committee(s) for goods and/or services provided by that committee(s). 11 CFR §100.7(a)(1)(iii)(A) states that "...the provision of any goods or services without charge or at a charge which is less than the usual and normal charge for such goods or services is a contribution." Examples of goods and services include equipment, supplies, personnel, membership lists and mailing lists. The term "usual and normal charge" for goods is defined as "...the price of those goods in the market from which they ordinarily would have been purchased at the time of the contribution". The usual and normal charge for services is defined as "...the hourly or piecework charge for the services at a commercially reasonable rate prevailing at the time the services were rendered." 11 CFR §100.7(a)(1)(iii)(B)

Please clarify whether your committee was assessed the usual and normal charge for the goods and/or services you received and explain the steps the political committee(s) took in determining the amount(s) charged to you. If your committee was provided the goods and/or services at less than the usual and normal charge, the difference between the two is considered to be an in-kind contribution by the political committee(s) to your committee and is subject to the limits set forth at 2 U.S.C. §441a. (11 CFR §100.7(a)(1)(iii)(A))

-Schedule H3 of your report discloses a transfer(s)-in from a non-federal account(s) for fundraising which appears to exceed the permissible amount(s) indicated by your allocation ratio for E2. Please be advised that transfers for shared activity must not exceed the non-federal share of the joint disbursements and that these transfers must be made within a 70-day time period: no more than 10 days before or 60 days after payment to the vendor. 11 CFR §§106.5(g)(2) and 106.6(e)(2) Please clarify the nature of this transfer(s)-in from the non-federal account.

The Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the total excessive amount received by your federal account back to your non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

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-Please clarify all expenditures made for ADVERTISING, PRODUCTION COST, BROADCAST SVS, MEDIA SVS, VIDEO COST, and VIDEO SVS on Schedule(s) B and H4. If a portion or all of these expenditures were made on behalf of specifically identified federal candidates, this amount should be disclosed on Schedules B, E, or F supporting Lines 23, 24, or 25 and include the amount, name, address and office sought by each candidate. 11 CFR §§104.3(b) and 106.1

-Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule B and H4 of your report to clarify the following description(s): TRANS. For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

-Line 1 and Line 5 of your Schedule 1 for your Republican National State Election Committee Non-Federal account discloses \$8,304,466.43 in receipts and \$442,994.49 in disbursements, respectively. However, the sum of the memo entries itemized on memo Schedule A equal \$8,225,504.43 and the sum of the memo entries itemized on memo Schedule B equal \$442,051.99. Please clarify these discrepancies.

A response or an amendment to your original report(s) correcting the above problem(s) should be filed with the Federal Election Commission within fifteen (15) days of the date of this letter. Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designation and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me on our toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division). My local number is (202) 694-1130.

Sincerely,



Scott B. Walker  
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division

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